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Community *notes*

World Poetry Party

[HoCoPoLitSo](#), in partnership with the Columbia Festival of the Arts and the Columbia Association presents the World Poetry Party on Friday, June 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Studio Theatre in the Horowitz Performing Arts Center, HCC.

Enjoy poems read in Spanish, Korean, Italian, Polish, Bulgarian and American Sign Language. Performers are all ages and from around the world; some of the works to be presented are original, others are the work of poets famous in their native languages.

This event is free!



Final Weekend: Cross Currents!

Columbia Festival of the Arts invites you to the closing weekend of its summer festival.

Enjoy a lineup of dance, theatre, and comedy including Festival favorite **Pilobolus** on June 25 and a finale performance by Chicago laugh factory **The Second City**.

The website has been updated with all of the details - and you can [see the full lineup right here](#).

Greeting

You know that there are certain things I love about Howard County. July 4th parades, helping neighbors in need and volunteering in support of the Arts are among the ways I like to spend my free time.

The Columbia Festival of the Arts presents the concluding weekend of *Cross Currents*, its summer festival. I've enjoyed the lineup of performers and the events. Feel free to share your feedback with the Festival's staff at the end of any event that you attend.

For pure fun (and no work on my part), Howard Astronomical League celebrates the grand opening of the Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park on June 27. Come by with a blanket and enjoy glazing at the night sky!

Sherry Kay

See Stars on Saturday Night

You are invited to join [Howard Astronomical League](#) as it hosts a First Light Star Party celebrating the grand opening of the Howard Astronomical League Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park (11685 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville) this Saturday evening.

The party begins with family activities 7:00 p.m. Make crafts, view the night sky through members' telescopes and take a "Solar System Walk" from the Sun to Pluto and back. Bring your flashlights and the League members will give you a red filter to see better at night. Don't forget your lawn chairs and blankets for relaxing under the stars.

The 'formal' ceremony - ribbon cutting ceremony - takes place at 7:30 p.m. with the party and observatory tours to follow.

Giving Food Means Independence

Food for Tomorrow, a student-led grassroots campaign to raise food, money and awareness for the Howard County Food Bank will participate in Longfellow Friends of the Traditional Fourth beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Hesperus Drive and Eliot's Oak Road.

The Food Bank needs the following items:

Cereal (hot & cold)
Pasta Sauce
Pasta
Tuna
Peanut Butter
Jam
Canned fruit
Meal makers (e.g. Tuna Helper)
Condiments
Rice
Juice boxes
Baby food
Diapers
Wipes



Look for the pick up truck and the volunteers who will be thrilled to see you as you help them fill the back of the truck with food!

If you are away for the holiday, please consider a donation to the [Community Action Council of Howard County](#).

Celebrating Our Nation's Birthday

The River Hill Community Association will host its annual Independence Day Parade beginning at 9:00 a.m. The route follows Great Star Drive from Guilford Road to the village center.

Howard County presents its Annual Festival and Fireworks celebration at Columbia's Lakefront on Saturday, July 4, 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Beginning as early as 6:00 p.m., Little Patuxent Parkway from Broken Land Parkway to Sterrett Place will be closed to thru traffic and will not reopen until the crowds have dispersed following the conclusion of the fireworks. Visit the [webpage](#) for all the details and for instructions to download the mobile app for the event.

The Ports America Chesapeake Fourth of July Celebration also takes place on Saturday, July 4 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Enjoy live music before the fireworks show begins at 9:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for details and other weekend events including the Monumental Bicentennial in Mount Vernon on Sunday, July 5.

Thinking of celebrating in our Nation's Capital? Click [here](#) for a link to the National Park Service for event information. [A Capitol Fourth](#) celebrates its 35th year in 2015. Click the link above for all the event details.

Coffee with a Cop

The community is invited to join the Howard County Police Department on the first Thursday of each month for "Coffee with a Cop." This community outreach program will offer an opportunity for officers and community members to come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues and build relationships one cup of coffee at a time. This month's event takes place on Thursday, July 2 at McDonald's, 8191 Westside Boulevard, Fulton from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Howard County Holiday Closings

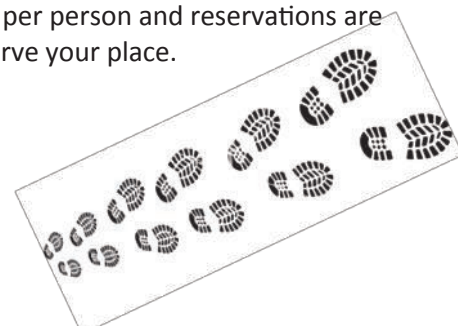
Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter and senior centers will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday on Friday, July 3. Curbside trash, recycling, food scrap and yard trim collection will take place as normal July 3. The Alpha Ridge Landfill will be open on Friday, July 3, but will be closed on Saturday, July 4. County parks, the Cedar Lane and Schooley Mill Activity Rooms, Gary J. Arthur, North Laurel and Roger Carter Community Centers, Kiwanis-Wallas Hall, Meadowbrook Athletic Center, Robinson Nature Center and Howard County heritage sites will be open on July 3. All, with the exception of County parks, Roger Carter Community Center and Howard County heritage sites, will be closed on Saturday, July 4. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a "Saturday" level of service on Friday, July 3. RTA will operate its regular Saturday schedule on July 4. For more information on RTA, call 1-800-270-9553 or visit www.transitrt.com. For more information on RTA please call 1-800-270-9553. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Monday, July 6. Visit the [website](#) to read the full advisory.

Who Done It?

Terrapin Adventures invites you to solve a 'murder' on Saturday, July 11, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. as they host a fun-filled evening of adventure. Participants will use the zip line, swing and climb their way to find the clues needed to unravel the mystery and win prizes. Guests will enjoy delicious appetizers and drinks. Tickets are \$65 per person and reservations are required. Click [here](#) to reserve your place.



PAINT IT! ELLICOTT CITY

Join artists from around the region on July 10 – 12 in Historic Ellicott City for Paint It! Ellicott City, an annual plein air painting event. The Howard County Arts Council (HCAC), Howard County Tourism, the Historic Ellicott City Partnership, and Howard County Public Schools are presenting this paint-out weekend culminating in an exhibit of 26 juried artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts.

The weekend begins with an Artist & VIP Welcome Reception at the Howard County Welcome Center on Thursday, July 9, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. All day on July 10–12, artists will set up their easels throughout the Ellicott City historic district to paint the picturesque mill town. Members of the public are encouraged to come watch the artists at work while strolling Main Street's sidewalks and shops. Artists and art students from the community can also join in the fun, painting alongside the juried artists as Open Paint-Out participants.

Paint It! has added two exciting new events this year. Paint Down Main, a quick draw competition, will take place on July 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., with artists competing for cash prizes as they take a painting from start to finish in just two hours. Then, at 2:30 p.m., *100 Plein Air Painters of the Mid-Atlantic* author Gary Pendleton will be on hand for a presentation and book signing. On July 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., as part of the Second Sunday Art Market, Mat About You Gallery will display the paintings created during the Quick Draw Competition, which will also be available for purchase.



Artists and visitors are invited to attend a free opening reception at the Howard County Center for the Arts on Monday, July 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The juried artists will be featured in HCAC's Gallery I through August 21; Open Paint-Out artists' work will be displayed in the Center's lobby on reception night, and then moved to an exhibit at the Howard County Welcome Center in Ellicott City for the remainder of the summer.

Registration is required for those wishing to be included in the Open Paint-Out exhibits. Registration forms are available at the Arts Council, the Howard County Welcome Center, and online on the 'Exhibits' [webpage](#) before or during the event.

News and Event Reminders

Clarksville Picnic

Come to a day filled with kid's games, pony and hay rides, face painting, your favorite fair foods and sweet treats at the 137th Annual Clarksville Picnic! Enjoy a magic show and lots of music for the family. There's plenty for the grown-ups to do -- BINGO!, a silent auction, plant sale, hand-made crafts, White Elephant garage sale, and a \$20,000 raffle. Relish the ever popular family-style chicken and pulled pork dinner with all the fixins' under the big tent.

The picnic takes place at St. Louis Church on Saturday, June 27. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 for adults, \$6 for those 5-10, and kids under five eat free. There is no admission charge to enter the picnic grounds.

Shakespeare in the Ruins

For laughs, plan a visit to Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's current production of *The Comedy of Errors*, a rollicking tale of mix-ups involving two sets of twins. They turn a seaside town upside down with confusion. Performances take place In-the-Ruins (Patapsco Female Institute, Ellicott City) now through July 19.

Each twin is unaware that the other is in town. Local merchants and officials cannot tell which is which -- and one very determined wife is willing to go to extreme lengths to reclaim the husband who doesn't recognize her. For more information and tickets, click [here](#).

Farmers' Markets

Howard County's Farmers' Markets are now open. View the [webpage](#) for locations, times, et cetera. Would you like to learn more about local producers? Click [here](#)!

Tourism and Much More

Looking for ideas on things to do in Howard County and around the region? Visit the Howard County Tourism and Promotion's [website](#) for ideas on activities for the whole family, including creative ideas to celebrate a special occasion. As the Tourism team says, "Having fun is serious business!"



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